

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00

ERDE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 NASA-02

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02

DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 NRC-07 /142 W

-----201836Z 106834 /46

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4187

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS LONDON 08442

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TECH UK PARM IAEA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN SPEECH ON NUCLEAR

NON-PROLIFERATION: PRESS REACTION

REF: LONDON 8309, LONDON 8334

1. INITIAL PRESS COVERAGE OF FONSEC OWEN'S SPEECH ON
NON-PROLIFERATION TENDED TO EMPHASIZE THE QUALIFIED
NATURE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF PRESI-
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DENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POLICY PROPOSALS.

2. MAY 20 FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL "SAYING
NO TO MR. CARTER" CONTAINED THE MOST THOROUGHLY NEGATIVE
INTERPRETATION OF OWEN'S SPEECH. DAVID FISHLOCK STATED
THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHILE COMMITTED TO NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION, IS NOT WILLING AT THIS STAGE TO

ACCEPT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS FOR TIGHTER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL. OWEN WAS SAID TO HAVE OUTLINED A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS IN THE MOST DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE PROLIFERATION ISSUE YET MADE PUBLICLY BY HMG. THE FT EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT, HOWEVER DIPLOMATIC THE LANGUAGE, THE SPEECH IS A SUSTAINED CRITICISM OF THE CARTER PROPOSALS. OWEN PUT HIMSELF IN THE POSITION OF THE JUDGE WHO WISHES TO APPEAR OBJECTIVE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LEAVING NO DOUBT AS TO WHAT HE THINKS THE VERDICT OUGHT TO BE. THE FT VOLUNTEERED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO YEARS SUBSEQUENT TO THE PRELIMINARY TWO MONTH STUDY IS REQUIRED SINCE MOST OF THE BEEN EVALUATED OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN LEFT UNCERTAIN WHAT THOSE COUNTRIES ALREADY COMMITTED TO REPROCESSING AND FAST BREEDER PROGRAMS ARE EXPECTED TO DO WHILE THE EVALUATION TAKES PLACE. IF THERE IS ANY SUGGESTION THAT THEIR PROGRAMS BE SUSPENDED, IT SHOULD BE SQUASHED FORTHWITH. THERE IS NOT DOUBT THAT THE TREND OF DR. OWEN'S REMARKS YESTERDAY WAS IN THIS DIRECTION; HE MAY YET HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT BLUNTER IF THIS MESSAGE IS TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. THE LONDON TIMES REPORT NOTED THAT IN A FINELY JUDGED SPEECH, OWEN GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO THE AIMS OF AMERICA'S NEW NUCLEAR POLICY, BUT REMAINED CAUTIOUS ON MODALITIES. THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE OBSERVED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PUT ON RECORD ITS DOUBTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS. THE GUARDIAN SIMPLY GAVE A STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE OWEN SPEECH.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770536/aaaabewi.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 8309, 77 LONDON 8334
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2439019
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN SPEECH ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION: PRESS REACTION
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, UK, IAEA, (OWEN, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf27408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009